V. Working Plans.

C. STANDING ORDERS TO BE FOLLOWED IN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISION OF WORKING PLANS—*concluded.*

Orders regarding the felling of coupes.

190. So long as local supply is not affected, and the wants of the villagers can be otherwise provided for, a matter regarding which the Collector is best able to judge, Government will not insist on departmental felling of coupes for the produce of which there is no demand. It is most desirable, however, that, as far as possible, the coupes should be felled in regular rotation; otherwise the regularity and the orderliness of the rotation system is lost, and it is deprived of its main advantage when, owing to areas that should have been cut in previous years being left standing, the Conservator's forecast of the area to be cut, and, therefore, of the quantity of timber he has to put on the market, is upset. Where a coupe has not been felled in its proper year, every effort should be made to dispose of it in the following season.*

VI. PRIVILEGES.

A. General.

Privileges generally.

191. Privileges pertaining to each Division are either sanctioned by Government or in some cases by the Collector of the District.

Extension and withdrawal of privileges.

191a. The Conservators and Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge of Circles are authorised to order a temporary extension of forest privileges. The Commissioner in Sind and the Commissioners of Divisions are authorised to order temporary withdrawals of privileges.†

Privileges are granted as a matter of favour—not right.

192. The Governor in Council has always been careful, while formally conceding liberal privileges on the completion of a forest settlement to communities which are reported to have enjoyed them, though as a matter of favour and not of right, for many years past, to make it clearly understood that such privileges are intended to be exercised as of favour only and are subject to withdrawal at any time.‡

Privileges should be clearly defined.

193. Privileges which are exercised as of favour should be defined in terms as exact and precise as possible, as is done with rights recorded in a forest settlement, and wherever possible, a definite term should be fixed for their enjoyment.§

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* Government Resolution No. 4944, dated 8th July 1893.
† Government Resolution No. 8855, dated 3rd October 1910.
‡ Government Resolution No. 2232, dated 12th April 1888.
§ Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture, No. 652-F, dated 19th July 1888 *vide* Government Resolution No. 5016, dated 27th July 1888.

VI. Privileges.

A. GENERAL—*continued.*

A period should be fixed during which privileges are admissible.

194. With a view to guarding against privileges growing into rights it is desirable to secure the distinction between privileges and rights by fixing some definite period at the end of which the question should be again considered of the continuance of the privileges for a further period.*

Special rates for produce to be sold to certain villagers.

195. The question of granting forest produce free, or on specially favourable terms, is a matter for consideration quite independently of the assessment of the Land Revenue, which should under no circumstances be enhanced at the expense of forest produce, the property of the State granted free. The principle to be kept in mind in dealing with the requirements of the people is that a fair price is to be charged for all forest produce, including that consumed in ráb cultivation, which may be supplied in excess of the quantity to which the people may be legally entitled by virtue of admitted rights.†

Government abandon no part of their proprietary rights by granting privileges.

196. Privileges as to forest produce and pasture and use of natural agents, not being at the time of concession or recognition by Government a part of the property or legally annexed as of right to the property of those to whom the concession or recognition may have been made, are to be deemed for all time indulgences or licenses revocable at pleasure by Government, which has no intention when permitting advantages to be enjoyed or benefits taken by means of forest privileges so allowed by it to abandon any part of its proprietary rights or any of the incidents thereof or benefits connected therewith.

Government may revise, curtail or discontinue privileges.

196a. It should be clearly understood that all forest privileges sanctioned by Government are liable at any time at the pleasure of Government to modification, curtailment or discontinuance, and that the exercise of such privileges is subject to revision whenever Government may consider such a course necessary.‡

Revision will generally be made at the revision of the Survey Settlement.

196b. Ordinarily such revision will be made at the revision of the Survey Settlement, unless cause appears to the contrary, but should Government deem a revision at any intermediate period or at decennial intervals to be rendered requisite by special circumstances, a revision will be effected at such period or interval. Where a revision of privileges previously accorded is held to be desirable either at a Revision Survey Settlement or at any time other than that of the revision survey settlement, a full report, showing why such revision is regarded

* Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture, No. 509-F, dated 7th June 1889, *vide* Government Resolution No. 4619, dated 3rd July 1890.

† Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture, No. 411-F, dated 23rd May 1890, *vide* Government Resolution No. 4619, dated 3rd July 1890.

‡ Government Resolution No. 4619, dated 3rd July 1890.

VI. Privileges.

A. GENERAL—*concluded.*

as advisable and what changes are proposed, should be furnished to Government by the Local Land Revenue and Forest Department Officers through the Conservator of the Circle and the Commissioner of the Division.*

Policy of Government regarding privilege to draw water in forest.

197. It is impossible to lay down a rule which shall be universally applicable; but it must be understood that no one should be prohibited from drawing water obtainable in a forest reserve in cases where it is not procurable elsewhere, within a reasonable distance.†

Special rates for sale of wood should not be abruptly cancelled and Commissioner's power.

198. As to the supply of wood, any favour as to price enjoyed by any class should not be abruptly cancelled without careful consideration and reference to Government. The Commissioners are authorized to relax the rates of fees for forest produce leviable under special privilege rules sanctioned by Government if in any case they should find the rates higher than the people can well afford to pay.‡

Cutting of grass in closed forests.

199. The proposal that the cutting and removal by hand of grass from closed forest areas should be permitted seems reasonable to Government on the grounds that the saplings might be choked by the rank growth of grass which, if set fire to, would destroy much valuable wood. It would be well if the rayats could be induced to take away such grass for ráb, fodder or provender. This is a matter which the Commissioners should settle according to their own discretion. Care should, however, be taken, in case such a concession is made, to secure the intervention of the Forest Officers if the people abuse the privilege of grass cutting so as to injure the young wood.§

B. Rab, Dalhi and Kumri Cultivation.

Supply of material for "ráb" cultivation.

200. The cultivators must undoubtedly have "ráb" and it will be the duty of the Forest Officers to make arrangements accordingly. [See section 206 as to arrangements made in Thána.] If a sufficiency of "ráb" cannot be obtained from grass and leaves, etc., the cultivators must be allowed, under proper supervision, to cut it in a portion of the Government forests.

Areas subject to collection of material for "ráb" cultivation should be worked under a fixed rotation.

200a. The Forest Officers must take every precaution to guard against the abuse of this necessary concession. Access to the reserves should be permitted in rotation, one portion at a time being entirely closed. The question of the exact proportion to be closed should, Government think, be left for settlement by the Conservator in communication with the District Officers.‖

* Government Resolution No. 4619, dated 3rd July 1890.
† Government Resolution No. 4345, dated 23rd November 1866.
‡ Government Resolutions No. 2952, dated 7th April 1884; and No. 2259, dated 28th March 1893.
§ Government Resolution No. 1631, dated 3rd March 1891.
‖ Government Resolution No. 1482, dated 18th March 1879.